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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CONFIRMATION NO. 3308

Applicant : Pascal MICHAUD
Serial No. : 09/034,415
Filed : March 4, 1998
Examiner : Latoya I. Cross
Art Unit : 1743
For : COMPOSITIONS FOR DRYING SOLID SURFACES

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Declaration of Jean-Pierre LALLIER

I, Jean-Pierre Lallier, declare as follows:

I am working in the field of the subject matter claimed in the above-identified application, and am employed by the assignee of the application. My Curriculum Vitae (which sets forth, among other things, my educational background, my technical areas of expertise, the length of time for which I have been employed by the assignee, and my experience in the field of drying solid surfaces) is attached hereto.

Under my direction, supervision and control, certain experiments were conducted wherein the ability of a specific amount of a polyfluorinated alcohol to remove water from a solid surface was compared with the ability of the same amount of the same polyfluorinated alcohol to remove an organic liquid from the same type of solid surface. These experiments are designated herein as "Examples 20 and 21".

In Example 20, a dewetting solution was provided which contained a blend of 97.4% by weight of HFC (specifically: 80% by weight HFC 365 mfc/20% by weight HFC 43 10 mee)¹, 0.6% by weight of surface active agent SA2², and 2% tridecafluorooctanol (TDFO). Eighty (80) milliliters of the dewetting solution was introduced into a 100 ml beaker at ambient temperature. A 4x2 cm stainless steel plate, wetted beforehand by immersion in water, was then immersed in the dewetting solution for one minute. After withdrawal of the plate from the solution, the plate was observed to be practically dry.

In Example 21, the procedure followed in Example 20 was repeated except that, instead of wetting a 4x2 cm stainless steel plate with water, two (2) grams of Wynn's draw oil (available from Wynn's) was spread onto the plate. The oil-covered plate was then immersed in the dewetting solution for one minute. After the plate was withdrawn from the solution, it was observed to still be covered with the oil.

¹ "HFC" represents a fluorinated hydrocarbon; "HFC 365 mfc" represents 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluorobutane; and "HFC 43-10 mee" represents 1,1,1,2,3,4,4,5,5,5-decafluoropentane.

² The process for making the surface active agent "SA2" is set forth on page 9, lines 1-6, of the instant specification.

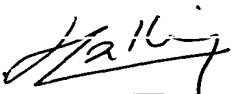
Thus, the dewetting solution was able to remove substantially all of the water from the stainless steel surface (Example 20) but was not able to remove any substantial amount of oil from the same type of surface (Example 21).

Thus, Examples 20 and 21 show that the ability of a specific amount of a specific polyfluorinated alcohol to remove water from a solid surface does not mean that the same amount of the same polyfluorinated alcohol can remove oil from the same type of solid surface.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date : November 17, 2003.

JPLallier 

Jean-Pierre LALLIER

Curriculum Vitae

Jean-Pierre LALLIER
Solvents
Research and Development

Centre de Recherche Rhône-Alpes
rue Henri Moissan BP 63
F-69493 Pierre-Bénite Cedex

Educational background

PhD in chemical in 1989 from Ecole Centrale de Paris

Chemical engineer, graduated in 1984 from Ecole Supérieure de Chimie Organique et Minérale.

Professional background

From 1989 until now, ATOFINA research centers (Levallois and Pierre-Bénite)

Technical areas of expertise

Solvents formulation

Surface treatment

Paint stripping, degreasing, cleaning, defluxing, dry cleaning